Study Report of Nucaer on Oilseeds

*254. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minster of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has warned that the self-sufficiency achieved under TMO could be jeopardised unless R&D programme was launched to raise oilseeds output;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons put forward by the NCAER in its study report;

(c) whether Government have examined the study report of the NCAER; and

(d) if so, what steps are being considered by Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d) technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses (TMOP) has neither assigned any study to National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Oilseeds nor has the NCAER conducted any specific project on the oilseeds. However, a paper published in the Political and Economic Weekly of March 30, 1996 written by authors working in the NCAER has come to the notice of the Government. To authors has inter alia suggested Research & Development to augment yield of oilseeds as also upgrade the technology of processing including exploring the possibility of introducing new oil crops that can give a higher quantity of oil per unit of land, for example, oilpalm.

The authors have mentioned that primarily increase in oilseeds production is due to the increase in area and higher relative prices for oilseeds.

The Government do not entirely agree with opinion of the authors because productivity of oilseeds has increased from 570 kgs./ha. in 1985-86 to 848 kgs/ ha. in 1994-95 an as such the oilseeds production has gone up on account of increase in area, higher productivity on account of Research & Development efforts and remunerative prices to the farmers.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a part of this R&D programme has already launched All India Coordinated Research Projects on Oilseeds and evolved better varieties of seeds and better production technology. The Government has promoted R&D in the post harvest and processing technologies through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Government is also promoting oil palm cultivation in the country.

Ordering of Wagons

*255. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders for wagons were placed on certain companies even though they did not meet the stipulated specifications and were unapproved suppliers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the amount of the contract involved; and

(c) the reasons which weighed with Government to place orders on unapproved companies which did not meet the requisite specifications?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) There is no system of approved suppliers for wagons. During 1995-96 three developmental orders were placed on firms who are not regular suppliers of wagons viz., M/s. Sri Ranga, Coimbatore for 200 BOXN wagon, on M/s. BESCO Ltd., Calcutta for 400 BOXN wagon and on M/s. Titagarh Steel Ltd., Calcutta for 200 BOXN wagons. The values of contracts are Rs. 13.43 crores, Rs. 26.86 crores and Rs. 13.43 crores respectively, the total value being Rs. 53.72 crores.